

USSN: 10/523,597

Response to Office Action Dated November 6, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (original) A method for measurement of silanol group concentration in silicon compound by infrared spectrophotometry, which comprises: conducting, prior to filling of a silicon compound in a cell, at least twice each of a step of keeping the cell inside at 20 Pa or lower and a step of keeping the cell inside at 0.2 to 1 MPa, then, introducing the silicon compound into the cell and measuring the infrared absorption spectrum thereof, to measure the concentration of the silanol group in the silicon compound.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A cell used for measurement of infrared absorption spectrum, capable of withstanding a reduced pressure of 20 Pa or lower and a pressure of 0.2 to 1 MPa according to claim 2, which is constituted by comprising a trunk made of stainless steel or Hastelloy-nickel-based corrosion-resistant alloy and infrared-transmitting window panels and has an optical path length of 5 to 40 mm, wherein each window panel has a thickness of 2 to 8 mm.

4. (currently amended) A cell used for measurement of infrared absorption spectrum, capable of withstanding an applied pressure of 3 MPa or lower, ~~which is constituted by comprising~~ a trunk made of stainless steel or Hastelloy-nickel-based corrosion-resistant alloy and infrared-transmitting window panels made of quartz or sapphire and has an optical path length of 5 to 40 mm, wherein each window panel has a thickness of 2 to 8 mm.